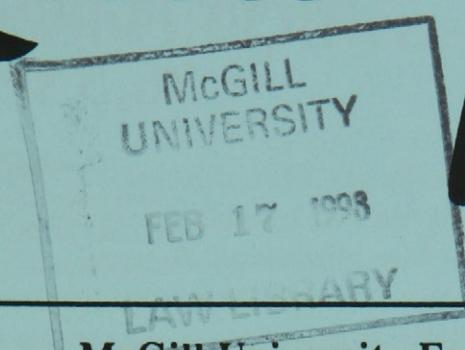


# Quid Novi



Vol. XVIII, No. 18

McGill University Faculty of Law  
Faculté de droit de l'Université McGill

February 16, 1998  
le 16 février 1998

## Opening Discussions on Education Equity

DYANOOSH YOUSSEFI

NAT IV

STUDENT MEMBER, EDUCATION EQUITY  
COMMITTEE

Three years ago, when I was in first year, I submitted an article to the February 13<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Quid Novi*. In "Time for a Change", I wrote about my experiences of dissatisfaction and alienation at a law faculty where the content and method of teaching, as well as the atmosphere, resonated more with that of a trade school than an institution of critical studies. I objected to what I perceived as a narrow and overly conservative approach to the teaching and the

study of law. I also protested against what I perceived as the resistance of faculty members to affecting fundamental change.

Now, three years after writing the article, now in my fourth and final year at the faculty, I find myself reflecting on those experiences. I am trying to understand what has changed — both in me and in the faculty, what has remained static, and what has repeated itself.

During these three years, I have also had numerous intense discussions with students about what the objectives of a law faculty should be. I have probably spent more time pondering over this issue and sharing ideas with others than over any concept of law.

Guess

## Top Ten McGill Referendum Topics

STEVEN LEITMAN

NAT IV AND MCGILL'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS

- 10) 17\$ fee levy to establish a committee to think up new fee levies.
- 9) To change the name of the Shatner Building to anything else.
- 8) To name all the other buildings at McGill after William Shatner.
- 7) Whether to separate from the Macdonald Campus.
- 6) Decide whether every single McGill undergrad has to do

the National Programme.

- 5) To allow Dean "Darth Vader" Toope another four year term as law school top dog.
- 4) Change the management of all cafeterias to Schwartz's.
- 3) To pay Professor Durnford whatever it takes to get him back to the faculty.
- 2) Determine what to do with the fan in room 102.
- 1) Whether to rename the Redmen the "Nahum Gelbers".

# Announcements

MOCK INTERVIEW PROGRAMME  
Du 16 au 19 février 1998.

Huit (8) avocats de Montréal et Toronto vont venir à la Faculté pour faire, avec vous, des SIMULATIONS D'ENTREVUES d'une durée de 30 minutes! Ils vous donneront ensuite des commentaires pour vous aider à améliorer vos performances.

Mock interviews will take place from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM and 48 places are available. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Placement Office very soon! So come visit us to reserve your place.

If you have any question, contact Dominic Belley, co-chair of the Placement Office.

2

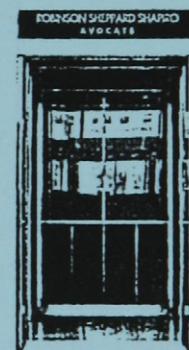
## Offres d'emploi Job Offers

Bell Canada International Inc. (BCI) is looking for two students to work in the Law Department in Montreal during the summer. You must be: at least in second year of either Civil or Common Law, in the first quarter of your class, bilingual, computer literate. If interested, check out the ad on the Placement Board for more details and forward your transcript and c.v. by 25 February to: Mr. Andre Serero, Assistant General Counsel and Assistant Corporate Secretary, Bell Canada International Inc., 1000 de la Gauchetière Street West, Suite 1100, Montreal, Quebec, H3B 4Y8

## Atteignez les sommets de la profession en 36,5 secondes.

36,5 secondes et 47 étages,  
voilà tout ce dont vous avez besoin  
pour démarrer votre carrière.  
Chez Robinson Sheppard Shapiro,  
nous ne faisons pas que  
vous offrir une ascension rapide,  
nous vous offrons également  
des avantages uniques :  
responsabilités accrues, autonomie  
et atmosphère de travail conviviale.  
Mais notre ascenseur, aussi rapide soit-il,  
ne peut accueillir que trois  
ou quatre passagers à la fois.  
Voilà pourquoi nous sommes si sélectifs.  
Alors si vous désirez atteindre  
les plus hauts sommets pour y demeurer,  
qu'attendez-vous pour monter ?

Pour venir nous rejoindre, contactez  
**Me Jacques Bouchard Jr**



**ROBINSON SHEPPARD SHAPIRO**  
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Written contributions must be submitted in electronic form, in either Microsoft Word 6 or less or WordPerfect 6 or less. Disks or artwork can be left in the Quid Novi box in the LSA office or at the Quid Novi office. Written contributions can also be sent by e-mail. Deadline is each Wednesday at 12:00.

# Report Of The Ad-Hoc Committee Concerning the Future of the Placement Office - Executive Summary

Since the creation of the Placement Committee in 1995, the office has undergone a rapid metamorphosis. New initiatives have been embraced by students, and the expectations of services provided by the office have increased exponentially; thus, the demand for additional initiatives has increased. Fortunately, with support from the Faculty, the office has been able to accomplish a great deal in a relatively short amount of time. However, this has become both a blessing and a curse, as student volunteers can no longer sufficiently manage the time commitment of running the office.

## AREAS REQUIRING IMPROVEMENT & SERVICES NOT OFFERED UNDER THE EXISTING STRUCTURE

### A. Individual Counselling/Advocacy

One of the primary roles of a Career Development Officer is to provide links between available positions and students who have not yet found articling positions. This is a duty specifically addressed in the job descriptions of the career development officers who responded to our enquiries. Overall they indicated that a high percentage of their time is spent in private consultation with individual students—reviewing their résumés, going over interview techniques, or contacting legal employers on their behalf. Given that neither student volunteers or the Assistant Dean have the opportunity to engage in this very time-consuming activity, this service has not been provided in the past. Under the current structure this service cannot be provided in a consistent and equitable manner.

### B. Alternate Legal Career Options

Over the past two years, surveys of the graduating classes and other students have continuously echoed the same sentiments: more information is needed for those students not intending to pursue a career within the ambit of a traditional legal practice. This past summer, the initiative to enhance resources on non-legal career alternatives and information on non-traditional articles was undertaken in conjunction with the Placement Office at the University of Ottawa. However, as this type of research requires a significant time commitment, it is difficult for the student volunteers to initiate and follow through on any long-term projects.

### C. Membership in National and Regional Legal Placement Organizations

One of the initiatives launched by the Career Development Officers in Ontario is the creation of the Canadian Legal Career Development Network (CLCDN), a national association of CDOs. The Officers have begun to meet regularly and have expressed an interest in including McGill in this process.

Another area which would benefit from the presence of a full-time Career Development Co-ordinator is membership in The National Association for Law Placement (NALP). This organization is devoted to facilitating the placement of law graduates, and while it has primarily focussed on American law schools and career opportunities, it has recently seen the addition of sev-

Page

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*Fier de commanditer  
le Quid Novi  
pour 1997-98*

# SSMU-LSA negotiations update

MARIO NIGRO  
LL B II  
LSA VICE-PRESIDENT  
(EXTERNAL)

**N**egotiations have begun with the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) concerning our desire to change our current fee structure. The negotiations have begun positively with the SSMU executive agreeing to sit down and discuss the need to change our fees. These are exciting times, and we at the LSA hope for the best results. Enclosed is the letter sent on behalf of the LSA to the SSMU that discusses the position enacted unanimously by the LSA Council. If you have any further questions please contact Steve Kelly or Mario Nigro.

February 6, 1998.

Ms Tara Newell  
President, Students' Society of McGill University

Dear Ms Newell,

On January 30, 1998, the Law Students Association of McGill (LSA), through its governing body, the LSA Council, passed a unanimous motion instructing the LSA President to begin negotiations with the SSMU in order to restructure the student fee that law students currently pay to the SSMU. If no agreement is reached by April 1st, the council has also agreed to vote on the initiation of a referendum recommending withdrawal from the SSMU.

The goal of the motion is to restructure the fee that law students pay the SSMU so as to accurately reflect the reality of services being provided and used by law students. At the current time, many fees and services are duplicated by the LSA and the SSMU. Therefore, it is clear that

our students are paying for services twice but using only one level of service in many cases.

Two prominent examples of this reality are reflected in Orientation programs and Internal Affairs. Both the SSMU and the LSA organize very successful Orientation activities. However, the reality is that they are separately funded and separately attended. Law students do not use this SSMU service, yet still pay for it.

In reference to internal activities, the VP Internal of the SSMU organizes numerous successful events. Nevertheless, these events are not attended by law students since there is an overlap once again. The majority of internal activities take place within our faculty and we feel this reality should also be reflected.

We are aware that the present 72% fee paid by law students acknowledges our lesser involvement in SSMU activities, but there is a strong feeling in the faculty that this payment represents far more than we actually use. I share this feeling.

Consequently, the motion passed by the LSA on January 30, 1998 seeks to reduce this fee to better reflect the reality of the current situation and have the difference added into the current disbursement provided to the LSA. Another option for restructuring presented was to keep the fee at 72%, but to have a percentage of this fee returned to the LSA to acknowledge the LSA's responsibility in running activities for students traditionally associated with the SSMU.

This fee service agreement would be constructed through negotiation between the SSMU and the LSA. This agreement would reflect a commitment by the two associations to work more efficiently by recognizing the fact that the LSA orga-

nizes most activities within the responsibility of the SSMU.

Withdrawing from the SSMU as a student association is not our first option, but our last.

However, dissatisfaction and distrust between law students and the SSMU is growing.

Law students feel alienated within the SSMU, and overwhelmingly feel that their needs and interests are not being adequately addressed. We have a wonderful opportunity through these negotiations for a fresh start in our relationship. This would not only improve relations but would strengthen them in a manner that could help end the negative attitude of many law students towards the SSMU.

I look forward to beginning our negotiations immediately, and I am excited about the prospect of developing a proposal to create satisfactory solutions to our problems. In addition, I am hopeful that we can convince the many law students who want to withdraw from the SSMU that we can and should work together. Successful negotiations are essential for our continued relationship.

Sincerely,  
Steve Kelly  
LSA President

## Report Of The Ad-Hoc Committee Concerning the Future of the Placement Office - Executive Summary

CONT'D FROM PAGE 3

eral Canadian law schools and firms. McGill has initiated the membership process, but a full-time Career Development Co-ordinator could enhance the faculty's presence in this organization. Therefore, the committee recommends that the LSA, in conjunction with the Faculty, should initiate steps to create the position of a full-time Career Development Co-ordinator. The following is recommended:

- 1) Assuming that the Faculty agrees to match student contributions, students should be asked to contribute through a voluntary fee levy the amount of \$40 per student towards the salary of this individual. Therefore, \$40 @ 500 students = \$20,000 X 2 = \$40,000.

Rationale:

- at the Ontario law schools, the majority of these positions are funded in this manner
- at McGill, the Faculty of Management used this process to create a similar position
- the amount of the levy is comparable to amounts contributed by students at the Ontario law schools, while being respectful of the financial concerns expressed by students in the November survey (Appendix A)
- the amount of the levy would generate a sufficient amount to pay the salary of a full-time person with a human resources background, but not necessarily a member of the legal profession

- 2) Hiring decisions should be determined with equal input from the Faculty and members of the LSA Executive.

Rationale:

- for purposes of administration, the CDC would be working directly with and reporting to the Assistant Dean, Admissions, Placement and Alumni Relations
- however, as students are directly contributing to 50% of the individual's salary, they should have significant input into the selection and review of the individual in the position

- 3) The incumbent CDC should have expertise in the field of human relations, but is not necessarily a member of the legal profession.

Rationale:

- ideally, the individual would possess skills in employment counselling, placement and career development
- ideally, the individual would be familiar with the legal profession, including articling programs, summer employment, government and private sector employment opportunities
- a degree in law would be preferable, although it is not necessary that the person be a member of a bar, so long as the Assistant Dean continues to be a lawyer; this would help to off-set salary considerations for the individual, which would substantially increase otherwise

- 4) Graduate students would not be able to benefit from the services of the Career Development Coordinator, unless they agree to obtaining a fee levy from their own membership.

Rationale:

- graduate students are not members of the LSA, they would not be bound by any fee levy obtained through the referendum process
- many graduate students hold international law degrees not recognized by Canadian and American bars; therefore, the service would benefit relatively few of them
- graduate students should be encouraged to obtain a nominal fee levy of \$10 per student in order to benefit those among them who might possibly wish to make use of the service

## Texte ou PRÉTEXTE?

# Demens febriculaque Satura [Misguided and feverish Satire]

PHILIPPE DUFRESNE  
NAT IV

**D**o you think that if I dyed my hair darker I would look more like David Duchovny? That's what Martine told me the other day and it's got me all worked up. Really? Would I? If so, do you think that Gillian would... Anyways, suffice it to say that after the oh, so scary episode of Sunday the 8th - which, incidentally was co-written by Stephen King- my addiction to Mulder and (especially) Scully is nowhere near exhausted. Did you see her in the bath? Didn't she look great with that Maine T-Shirt and those cool sunglasses. Didn't [...] Listen to me. I sound like those internet losers I regularly chat with on www.fox.com/trustno1 [...].

En parlant de cheveux, saviez-vous mes chers collègues francophones que le mot "hair" en anglais est un concept singulier, et ce malgré l'incontournable absurdité de la chose? En effet, c'est l'équivalent de dire "je vais me faire couper *le cheveux*". Ah oui? Lequel? Est-ce qu'on dit, en regardant une plage "Look at all the *grain* of salt on the beach"?

"What is his problem?", you are surely wondering. Well, if any of you talk to Natasha Ell, she will relate how often she made fun of me when I said "Do you think my *hairs* are the same colour as David Duchovny's *hairs*". I learned my lesson, but I still think it makes no sense. To be fair to my old friend, another mistake I used to make was to say "Can you *open* the light?". In this if nowhere else, her mockery was well deserved.

My, my, I need another Neocitran. It's been a rough week and fighting the relentless Flu Nemesis is now taking its toll on my valiant spirit. Vitamin C every day, they tell me. It's because you always walk out of the gym with your hair wet, they scold me. It's

because you work too hard on your legal studies (I wish they said that...). They certainly talk a lot, but knowing *why* my nose is running and my head feels as if it had been through three hours of Intellectual Property law (don't worry, these massive attacks are unfrequent) does not make me feel any *better*. I suppose it is a western reflex. We always ask who or what is to *blame* instead of what we can *do* about it. Well, at least I have the paradise of bliss that comes with the white powder... Actually, Neocitran is white and yellow, but the single colour description sounded more dramatic. Anyways, if I seem particularly *numb*, or if I fail to recognize you, blame it on the eternal sleep medicine. At least I can still go to class. Skipping just wouldn't be right.

En parlant d'hallucination, je dois vous demander de m'expliquer un commentaire qui a été fait en classe la semaine dernière. Voici la scène en version abrégée (si je l'ai mal comprise, je m'en verrai rassuré...). Suite à une succession de cours difficiles à suivre, une étudiante demande au professeur s'il peut faire un effort pour structurer la matière un peu plus. La réponse ressemble un peu à ceci: "Je comprend votre préoccupation, malheureusement, ce cours ne se prête pas (ou se prête mal) à la structure puisque les concepts reviennent un peu partout et il est impossible de n'en parler qu'à un seul endroit. J'aimerais vous donner plus de structure, mais en raison de la matière elle-même, ce sera difficile". En autre mot, de par sa nature même, cette matière ne peut être structurée. C'est *impossible* d'organiser les différents éléments. Ils sont destinés à être éparpillés partout.

Si j'étais moi-même professeur, mes prochaines questions seraient les suivantes: Ce raisonnement vous apparaît-il convaincant?.. Est-il possible pour un matière juridique d'être ontologiquement incohérente? L'objet d'étude peut-il se trouver épistémologiquement hostile à la

logique et à la structure? Ce sont des questions sérieuses! On nous affirme que ces règles juridiques ne peuvent être organisées de façon claire et logique. Combien de fois nous a-t-on dit que notre réponse d'examen manquait de structure ou de logique? Que nous dira-t-on dans ce cours? Que notre réponse était *trop* structurée et *malheureusement* logique? Of course, we find this out *after* the drop out period!

Let's finish off with politics. Don't worry, I am well aware of the *extremely delicate sensibility* of this distinguished student body when it comes to that so my remarks will be cautious (pending a future discussion on political *perfectness*.) Don't you think that our dignified prime minister is a personal favorite of the goddess *Fortuna*? Did you see what happened after he announced the helicopter purchase? I mean this was going to be a political purgatory for him after the eloquent "I will take the check and write zero -Jean Chrétien!". He was facing another "I never promised to abolish the GST" scrutiny on his ability to tell the truth (which, incidentally *is* out there). What happens? The Gods step down and send us the Ice Storm! Talk about "See no evil, hear no evil"!

During this time in the US, our enlightened neighbours speak of impeachment for the crime of adultery (and admittedly, perjury, but is this *really* what interests the people?). It is a HUGE deal. The president allegedly had "sexual relations" (depending on what *that* means down there) with an intern, what's her name again? We think he *may* have done this and then told her to lie about it. If so, he could very well be impeached.

Contrast this with our own political tolerance towards our elites. What did our leader do (besides coming dangerously close to blatantly violating many campaign promises)? He physically assaulted a protester. Remember Bill Clennet? Our

prime minister, *primus inter pares* that he is, grabbed a man by the throat and threw him to the ground wearing a savage grin on his face. Remember? It was sometime before the Somalia business. Now we know this for a fact. It was all over TV. It was *illegal*. It caused someone physical pain (even though Bill's dentist bill was footed by the federal government). Did the whole country ask for the PM's resignation? Did people say this was as bad as stealing opposition files from a Hotel? No. Then again, why would they, this is *surely* not as bad as consensual sex! I feel certain that if the aggressor had been Mulroney, the public response would have been different.

Pour une raison ou une autre, le p'tit gars de Shawinigan se fait tout pardonner dans le ROC. À un tel point que même le *Globe and Mail* corrige et amende ses déclarations afin de ne pas reproduire les terribles erreurs de grammaire et de style de notre chef de gouvernement. Parfois il semble que si Clinton a dû dire que oui, il avait fumé du pot mais n'avait pas inhalé, il suffirait à Jean Chrétien de dire "oui, j'ai fumé du pot, mais je ne suis pas Brian Mulroney"... Ironiquement, au Québec c'est l'autre extrême et on lui reproche tout. À en croire certain, la tempête de glace que nous venons de vivre a été causée par le fédéral, sinon par Jean Chrétien lui-même (alors qu'on sait tous que le coupable, c'est le maire Bourque...)! La démagogie rend les journaux très intéressants. Mais c'est quand même de la démagogie. Quel sens des responsabilités persistera chez celui qui d'une part est exoneré pour tout et d'autre part condamné pour rien. The rule could then become: *if impunity corrupts, absolute impunity corrupts absolutely*.

Three paragraphs on politics? I really need to find that white and yellow powder...

*Philippe Dufresne is an X-files fan who would sell his soul for some old episodes (especially the one where Mulder sleeps with a vampire...). He is still recovering from law games and this may explain his chronic illness and the critical tone of this unfortunate article.*



BENJAMIN ARCHIBALD  
LL.B.I

This past weekend, I had a chance to take a break from memo mania and reflect on my Jewish heritage.

Jews joke amongst themselves that two Jews always manage to have three opinions on any given subject. Not unlike lawyers, Jews love to study, debate, and at times even argue. Possibly this is because Judaism is the product of a rich legal tradition that began with the giving of the Bible and culminated with the codification of the Talmud (for those of you with questions about the Talmud, apparently Talmudic Law is a popular course among fourth year students- easier than Tax, perhaps?).

This past weekend the Canadian Jewish Law Students' Association held its annual conference

in Montreal; The theme: The State of Israel at Fifty. I admit that I had to be coaxed into going to the conference. After all, I had a memo to write. Priorities are priorities!

Despite my belly aching, I went to the conference eager to learn from the rather diverse speakers list: an Arab Israeli human rights lawyer, a Bedouin social worker, an orthodox Jewish feminist, a Jewish Israeli law professor, the Israeli ambassador to Canada and an orthodox rabbi, among many others.

This diverse speakers list challenged many of the Jewish participants' beliefs about the nature of the Jewish Zionist state in a democratic context. The rich mix of Arab Israeli and Jewish Israeli viewpoints produced divergent opinions among panelists and participants alike. After all, if two regular Jews have three opinions on any given subject, just imagine how many opinions are produced by one hundred Jewish law students.

True, there is no consensus on Israel's future. What is clear, however, is that the state is wrestling with its philosophic and political purpose both on the domestic and international fronts. While consensus regarding Israel's future is not yet clear, dialogue persists and social peace in a fractious Jewish community is within reach.

As they say in all parts of Israel: *ehye tov* (Hebrew), *kelshen chosh* (Arabic), all will be fine.

## AVIS!

### REFERENDUM SUR L'AUGMENTATION DES FRAIS POUR FINANCER LE POSTE D'UN COORDONATEUR DES SERVICES DE PLACEMENT À PLEIN TEMPS

MERCREDI LE 18 FÉVRIER  
ET  
JEUDI LE 19 FÉVRIER

"Voulez-vous en faveur d'une augmentation des frais d'une somme de 20\$ par étudiant par semestre, à compter de Septembre 1998, dans le but de financer le poste d'un coordonateur des services de placement à plein temps, à condition que la faculté contribue de façon égale à la somme totale ainsi perçue?"

# MLJ Footnotes

SÉBASTIEN BEAULIEU  
LL.B III  
RÉDACTIONNISTE EN HERBE

This is the first of an aspiring permanent column in the *Quid*. Our aim is to share journal-related matters and reflections with you. Above all, we wish to personify<sup>1</sup> the *McGill Law Journal* in all its serious<sup>2</sup>... and mostly less serious<sup>3</sup> forms. Each week, journal editors<sup>4</sup> will take turns writing this column, filling it with their wit, views of the journal and of the faculty, frustrations<sup>5</sup>, and valuable footnote editing tips. Hopefully, you will enjoy reading this as much as Lord Denning enjoyed cricket,<sup>6</sup> as much as Lord Atkin loved his neighbour,<sup>7</sup> as much as Justice L'Heureux-Dubé loves dissenting.<sup>8</sup>

La chronique présentée, permettez-moi de vous faire une mise à jour des activités de la *Revue*. La sélection d'un nouvel exécutif se fera sous peu, et ce en toute conformité avec la *Loi sur les Compagnies du Québec*<sup>9</sup>. L'équipe actuelle s'affaire à terminer la préparation du deuxième numéro de l'année<sup>10</sup> et, réjouissez-vous, une quatrième édition du *Manuel canadien de la référence juridique*<sup>11</sup> verra bientôt le jour pour ajouter à vos angoisses de factum et de travaux de semestre.

Et puis, je vais vous faire rêver quelques instants en vous parlant de vacances en ce temps quelque peu déprimant et stressant de l'année. Cet été, pendant que vous serez allongés sur une plage ou asservis à un cabinet, un numéro spécial de la *Revue* sur la réforme du Code civil russe<sup>12</sup> cheminera tout bonnement vers l'adresse estivale de votre choix!

Before finishing this article, let me reassure those who think we are obsessed with footnotes... we are.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See *Vice-versa v. Aubry* [or something like that]

- for a discussion of the rights to image.
- 2 See B.J. Arnold *et al.*, eds., *Materials on Canadian Income Tax*, 11th ed. (Scarborough: Carswell, 1996).
- 3 Foundations of Canadian Law (McGill Faculty of Law, Course No.492 116).
- 4 See generally 43 *McGill LJ.* 1 [in your mailbox!] for a complete list of editors.
- 5 Frustration stemming from journal work excluded!
- 6 Denning in *The Cricket Case*.
- 7 *Donaghue v. Stevenson*, [1932] A.C. 562 (H.L.).
- 8 See generally Supreme Court Reports since 1990 (?).
- 9 Art. 88. Voir dans le régime fédéral la *Loi sur les sociétés par actions*, art. 106(3), 135(5).
- 10 *United-States - Split-run Magazines Case* (*United States v. Canada*), WTO Doc. WT/DS12/R.
- 11 *McGill Law Journal, Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Writing*, 3d ed. (Scarborough: Carswell, 1992) [hereinafter *Cite Guide*].
- 12 P. Koring, "Yeltsin and Duma Agree to MLJ Special Issue on the Russian Civil Code" *The Globe and Mail* (12 décembre 1997) A9.
- 13 See "MLJ Footnotes", *Quid Novi*, February 1998.

# Results

DEANNA MATZANKE  
NAT IV  
CHAIRPERSON, STUDENT COMMITTEE, NEW LAW LIBRARY COMPLEX

## Comments:

4.(a). This question was included in the survey since it was a definite issue from the first survey in 1995. Many students who play intramural sports or who like to go running or walking in between class as a means of exercise (and to get out of the building into the sunshine and fresh air) felt that a shower facility would be an excellent idea. It didn't get such a large following this time. It remains to be seen what kind of facility is possible and how it would be maintained.

4(b). Once again, those students who play on intramural hockey teams and others thought that, were space available, a storage locker for practice equipment would be a nice idea. It's on the wish list. Someone also mentioned that storage space for Skit Nite props, etc would be helpful. Good idea, too.

4(c) For those of us who live a long away from the Faculty and rely on lockers to put our coats and boots, lunch and extra books into, lockers that adequately accommodate this much stuff are really important. A large majority of the student body agree with this. With the construction of the atrium, a part of the basement section of the atrium will be converted into more locker space with decently sized lockers. We are looking at replacing the puny ones with larger ones as well.

4(d) Most of you agreed that the basement is a good place for lockers. The last survey identified the fact that the location of lockers and the cafeteria should be linked because most students drop their stuff off at their lockers, then grab a coffee before

## NOTICE!

### REFERENDUM ON FEE LEVY TO HIRE A FULL-TIME PLACEMENT OFFICER

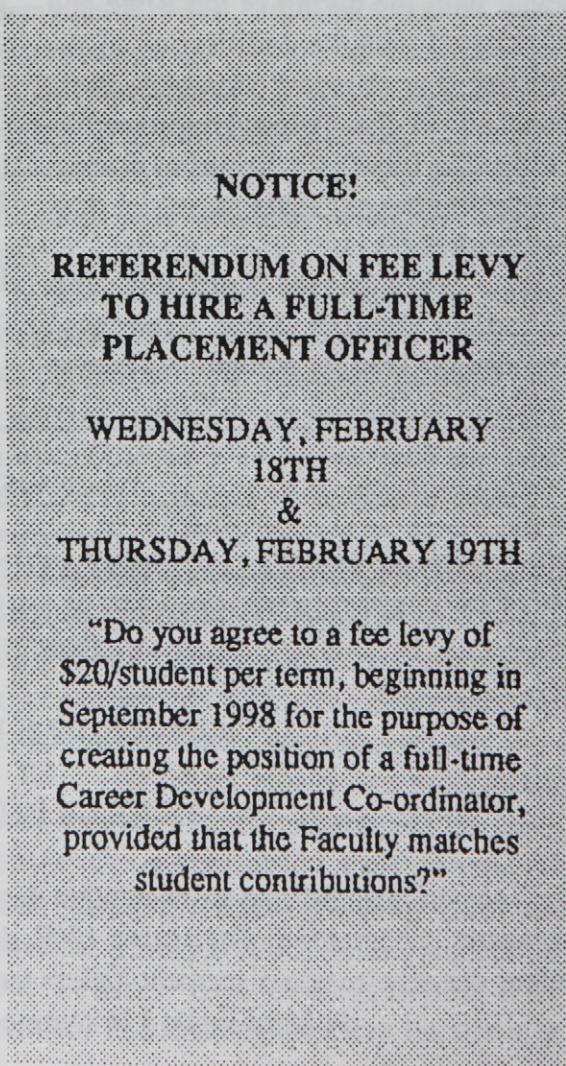
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY

18TH

&

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

"Do you agree to a fee levy of \$20/student per term, beginning in September 1998 for the purpose of creating the position of a full-time Career Development Co-ordinator, provided that the Faculty matches student contributions?"



## from the Student Survey on Renovations to NCDH - PART IV

**Question 4: Storage & Facilities**

Agree	Disagree	No opinion
No answer		
a) Renovations should include the construction of shower facilities in the basement		
22%	51%	27%
1%		
b) More storage space for sports equipment is required		
22%	32%	46%
1%		
c) Individual storage lockers should be increased in size and number.		
78%	13%	11%
0%		
d) Lockers should remain in the basement		
66%	4%	30%
0%		
e) The cafeteria should be relocated to (choose one)		
i) 6th floor of NCDH		
9%		
ii) 5th floor of NCDH		
2%		
iii) 4th floor of NCDH		
18%		
iv) remain in current location with significant improvements		
59%		
v) it is adequate as it is.		
8%		
vi) no response		
4%		

going to class. Therefore, to have the two far apart would create convenience problems. This is definitely a concern.

4(e) Much to the Dean's surprise, the majority of you prefer the cafeteria where it is. Once again, I believe this has to do with convenience and traffic patterns and the Student Committee will be making a big effort to push for the location of student services, lockers and the cafeteria in such a way as to maximize convenience. Certainly, improvements are necessary to the current cafeteria if it remains where it is. The fourth floor is the second option. Someone mentioned the addition of a coffee kiosk in the atrium for better convenience. It has been discussed, but no conclusions yet.

However, many of you felt that going up and down the stairs to a cafeteria on the upper floors of NCDH was impractical. On the other hand, those of you who

chose the 4th, 5th or 6th floor wanted more light and a view.

The main floor or the second floor are not options. We did forget about the 3rd floor though which may be a serious option.

**Additional comments:**

A couple of you identified the fact that the staircases are a little outdated in terms of safety. The architects for the library have already identified this one as well and insisted that we include that in the renovation plans for whomever gets the contract.

Somebody mentioned that the entrance to NCDH needs to be renovated to make it look like a main entrance so that less people will go through OCDH. Good idea.

The suggestion that the new library should be attached to McIntyre

garage has already been taken care of.

The Career Placement office is certainly a concern for many. It is on the top of the list in terms of allocation of space. As for the suggestion that a whole contingent of professionals should run it, where is the money going to come from?

Colour was the preoccupation for a couple of people. I have to agree. NCDH needs some serious consideration in this department to get rid of the concrete gray and drab brown. Plants would definitely add a little in the way of colour and life! Someone also astutely pointed out that the interior decoration of NCDH should accord with, as much as possible, the interior decoration of OCDH. The architects for the library took this idea seriously and the library will be decorated in such a way. There is no reason not to insist that NCDH we approached in the same manner.

Notice boards are a definite concern. Where they are currently severely limits the advertisement of events and the poster policy in the Faculty is a particularly capricious one.

A weight room? Probably not. The gym has a brand new one that everyone is paying extra fees for.

Someone felt that the old class pictures, historical photos, etc added character and that these should not be replaced. The future of these objects and their placement will certainly be seriously discussed.

**Thank- you!**

Your comments on the survey have given the Student committee a lot of fodder to work out a student wish list which will be matched with the amount of space made available once the library moves. Look for a final survey that will offer several options on location and quality of space (in the same way as the Curriculum Committee formulated their survey) near the end of the semester.

# Role Models and Why We Need Them

JO-ANNE PICKE  
LAW/MSW IV

I just recently realized what I was sorely missing during my first two to three years of law school: role models.

I guess I realized it all along, but the extent of my longing for one or more of them has been made clear to me just recently as I have finally identified a few individuals in whom I see some of myself and whom I find worthy of emulation.

I don't expect many of the people reading this to relate to this sentiment. But, for those of us who belong to groups that are underrepresented within the legal field, role models can be extremely important. For gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, people with disabilities, people from diverse racial, ethnic and religious groups, aboriginal people, and even women or people who consider themselves politically progressive, the search for role models in the legal field can be an exhausting activity to say the least. It's not that these people do not exist, its just that they are often relatively hard to find.

I imagine things to be much easier for the average law student (whoever that is) who can look to most of the lawyers out there and think "Wow, I could be just like them" and, more importantly, "I would like to be just like them". For many of us, things are not so simple. Finding people in the legal field (whether practising lawyers or just people trained in law) for whom we have a high esteem and with whom we can strongly identify can be a frustratingly long and arduous process. When WE stare out in the legal world, it's not usually our reality (or not enough of it, anyway) that we see mirrored back at us but someone else's.

I sincerely hope that things are changing, though. I hope that recent law school graduates and younger professors will recognize a responsibility toward those of us who are trying to craft an alternative perspective within the legal field. I also hope that law faculties like our own will realize (or continue to realize) that they have a responsibility to admit and accommodate students with diverse backgrounds and perspectives. Finally, I hope that students who are currently in law school will continually work toward making space for diversity within the student body.

Not to sound overly optimistic, but I do see some promising signs out there: recent law school graduates, new professors, and even older professors who are conscious of the need to diversify their perspectives; a crop of incoming students with interesting backgrounds and life experience (the ones I have had the pleasure of meeting, anyway); and, finally, a collection of increasingly visible and diverse student groups, from LEGaLe-McGill-OUTLAW to the Asian Law Students Association to Women and the Law to the Equity Committee, all of which have worked hard to introduce some diversity into our collective law school experience.

In the end, I hope that students like myself who are members of one or more underrepresented groups within the legal field will soon be able to look around and find no shortage of role models from which to choose. As corny as it sounds, I hope that soon we all can look around and think "Yeah, I'd like to be like her and him and her and them..." and so on.

# Spleen Machine

MATIAS MILET  
LLB II

The members of the board of Kamloops Vegetable Parchment enjoy the warmth of tungsten in a warehouse infested with ribbonworm. A single frosted bulb wrecks a dim glow on their meetings. Personally, I try to lurk in the dark corners during meetings but there is no hiding. "Dog on a chairlift," said one of the directors once, buttonholing me with a presenter's baton. "You look sorrier than a no-computer kid given a joystick by Santa."

As caretaker of the boardroom, I felt it only fair to warn them. "I want no barley in me coffee." They glared at me and one of them began to sharpen the sponge. Captains of industry? I have them pegged for gingerbread gods. Indeed, the chairman is a case-study in creative conformity. He was the first to go to Dale Carnegie for sneezing. He is on the cutting edge of the blade that produces the run of the mill. He speaks in cliches that have never been uttered. Many of his memorable lines were borrowed from me. At one meeting, he wondered aloud how to describe the opposite of "synergistic cooperation." I squeaked from my corner that sometimes, just to screw them up, I like to stand in the path between a caretaker and a caregiver. The Founder's Club heard that one. On my snow this man sleds to success.

Though I gripe a lot, my wife says I glory in my position. To resist insider trading is after all an exquisite pleasure for the penniless. She says I remind her of a man so particular in his tastes that he likes to lie along the hypotheneuse of a love triangle. The way I scold those who honour me with their secrets, it moves my son to premature clamour for the memoirs. Worm shite be damned, I love these people.



# Panel: Les droits des gais, lesbiennes, et bisexuel(le)s au Canada: litigation strategies and social change

JO-ANNE PICKEL  
LAW/MSW PROGRAM IV

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Many students and faculty members have expressed surprise over the exponential growth in LEGaL-McGill-OUTLAW's membership and the overwhelming increase in the group's visibility over the past year. And no wonder... For a little group that counted about six die-hard members last year, an increase in membership to over 15 active members (not to mention an e-mail list of 25 people) is pretty darn impressive.

In fact, the members of LfGaL-McGill-OUTLAW have been encouraged by the very positive responses the group has received from students and faculty members regarding our efforts to raise awareness of lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues in the Faculty over the past year. Now, we hope these expressions of support will translate into a large turn out for our main event of the year.

The group will hold a panel on gay, lesbian, and bisexual equality rights in Canada on Wednesday, February 18th at 12:30 in room 202 (NCDH). The

speakers for the panel will be Cynthia Petersen and Mr. Bruno Grenier. Both are lawyers who have extensive experience with gay and lesbian rights litigation in Quebec and Canada.

Ms. Petersen is a strong, interesting, and engaging speaker. Students who took part in the Supreme Court trip last semester saw her in action representing Equality for Gays and Lesbians Everywhere (EGALE) as intervenors in the case of *Vriend v. Alberta*. Ms. Petersen is both a lawyer and a law professor. She is currently on leave from the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa and practicing for the Toronto law firm of Sack Goldblatt Mitchell. As part of her work in the areas of human rights and public/administrative law, Ms. Petersen has litigated several high profile cases involving the issue of same-sex benefits and the protection of gay and lesbian equality rights more generally. For example, she was counsel for EGALE as intervenors before the Supreme Court of Canada in *Egan v.*

*Canada* and she will be representing the organization again next month when the Supreme Court hears the case of *M. v. H.*, a challenge to the definition of "spouse" in Ontario's *Family Law Act*. Ms. Petersen will speak on the significance of the *M. v. H.* case in the context of same-sex benefits and gay and lesbian equality rights litigation in Canada.

Mr. Grenier est associé au cabinet Montréalais Saint-Pierre, Grenier: Avocats. Il est aussi président du Centre de services juridiques pour lesbiennes et gais, un organisme à but non-lucratif qui offre un éventail de services juridiques aux communautés gais, lesbiennes, bisexuelles, et transsexuelles du Québec. Il discutera des efforts faits pour obtenir l'égalité juridique des gais et lesbiennes au Québec.

A wine and cheese reception will follow the panel in the Common Room. All faculty members and students are invited to meet the speakers and enjoy some free food and drinks!

# Education Equity

*CONT'D FROM PAGE 1*

Qu'ai-je découvert? J'ai appris que notre faculté est plus diverse que la perception que j'avais pendant ma première année. Toutefois, j'ai également appris que le visage de notre faculté est loin d'être parfait et qu'il n'existe pas de processus efficace où les étudiants et les professeurs peuvent partager des idées, des inquiétudes et des critiques constructives dans un milieu véritablement respectueux.

Chaque année, je trouve aussi un plus grand nombre d'étudiants qui partagent mes expériences et mes préoccupations et qui espèrent contribuer à l'étude de droit dans cette faculté pour la rendre plus stimulante, riche, honnête et avec plus d'analyses critique.

What I and these other students share is our wish to bring social, racial and economic issues into every class, and to challenge existing normative and legal orders which are treated as neutral issues in traditional legal teaching. We also wish to see our own experiences and issues related to our own objectives for studying law reflected in the curriculum.

The majority of students who actively voice concerns similar to mine are students from traditionally under-represented groups at the law faculty. Most of the students tend to be women. Among the women, the majority come from non-white ethnic and racial backgrounds. We have all had experiences of marginalization, both in the classroom as well as in law school social settings.

Les problèmes et les questions qui nous préoccupent ont déjà fait l'objet de discussions à la faculté, particulièrement quant à la réforme du programme (Curriculum Reform). In April

of 1996, Women and the Law, Sexual Minorities and the Law, the Black Law Students' Caucus, and Students With Disabilities submitted a joint report on curriculum reform to the faculty. On the fourth page of this report, the student groups voiced the opinions of so many who preceded and who followed them:

"A priority in curriculum reform, therefore, is to assure the comprehensiveness of course content—to assure, in other words, not only that there are specialized classes dealing with alternative legal perspectives and with issues of equality and non-discrimination, but that *every* course canvasses these issues in its particular field. This priority is particularly important in the context of the first year curriculum, where students are introduced to the law and legal learning, and are particularly dependent upon their instructors' perspectives and approaches to legal issues. The promotion of principles of equity and of diversity of thought, especially in first year courses, is a first principle of curriculum reform—a primary educational purpose."

While these issues have been addressed, to some extent, by first year instructors who have the education, knowledge and desire to bring them into the class, they have not been addressed systematically by the faculty.

During the past year, the Education Equity Committee has held meetings in which students shared with each other their experiences of marginalization, dissatisfaction and discomfort in law school. The attendance of students from first and second years suggests that as a faculty, we have far greater distances to travel before we can proclaim ourselves to be a diverse faculty and one that caters to a diverse student body. Furthermore, many other instances of conflict and misunderstanding—both among students and between students and faculty—suggest a greater need for sharing information and for sensitization.

In order to raise awareness on equity issues at the faculty and to assess and better understand the con-

cerns of students from equity-seeking groups, the Education Equity Committee has undertaken two projects for this term. First, in this and following *Quid* issues, some students will write about their personal experiences at the faculty. Second, the Committee has undertaken to design and to distribute a questionnaire aimed at gathering a more comprehensive body of information about the experiences of students and professors at the faculty.

The Committee hopes that these steps will increase the level of awareness and discussion about existing equity issues at the faculty. The students who have attended Education Equity meetings and who are writing these articles all wish to contribute toward positive change at law school, and hope that through sharing their experiences they will provide support to those who remain silent.

For more information about the Education Equity Committee and its other undertakings for this year, contact one of the student members of the Committee (Alexandra Varela, Tripta Sood, and Dyanoosh Youssefi).

Au nom de tous les étudiants, l'AED tient à féliciter les participants au concours Mignault qui ont fièrement défendu nos couleurs:

-Frédérique Desruisseaux  
-Jordana Sanft  
-Stéphanie Lussier  
-Sylvain Gagnon

Avec une mention spéciale à Stéphanie et Sylvain pour le meilleur mémoire et à Sylvain (encore!), comme meilleur plaideur.

Jan-F. Pleszczynski  
VP Civil